

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

EXCISE

489

47-48

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Action

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FROM: Port-au-Prince

TO: Secretary of State

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

NO: 259, November 23, 6 p.m.

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I delivered President Kennedy's letter to Duvalier (Circular 957) this morning. Chalmers and Raymond were also present. Occasion was utilized to convey to GOH points made in Circulars 950 and 951. Duvalier reacted by asking me to inform President that Haiti intended to continue its traditional policy of marching with US and also to assure President that he was on our side in battle against international Communism. In rather lengthy conversation that followed on subject of Communism I gathered distinct impression that remarks I had made last week on this topic (Embassy telegram 247) had left strong impression. Duvalier said he had taken up question of PANORAMA in appropriate quarters and that he was also keeping close eye on AUBERGE. He spoke of influence of education in France on young Haitian students and cited case where son of member of legislative assembly who was supposed to be studying in Paris turned up in Moscow much to his father's chagrin. I reminded Duvalier that only recently his Minister of Education had turned down plan for 15 Haitian students to spend several weeks in US on orientation tour (Embassy telegram 207) and said I hoped he would reflect on relationship of such opportunities to tendency of young Haitians to be Marxist-minded. []

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Duvalier and
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-2- 259, November 23, 6 p.m., from Port-au-Prince

Duvalier and his ministers showed considerable interest in obtaining information as to whether we considered that UN had any further role to play at this stage of Cuban affair. Would appreciate any information Department may consider it desirable transmit on this subject. Duvalier remarked in this context he considered U Thant to be less active operator than Hammarskjold and that he hoped Ambassador Stevenson would continue to push (pousser) U Thant in right direction.

Duvalier referred to news story of Cuban origin alleging US had atomic weapons in Haiti as well as in Puerto Rico and Panama. Haitians wondered what Cuba was driving at and insinuated that this canard somehow put Haiti in forefront of hemispheric defense. I said it was our consistent policy to avoid confirming or denying presence of atomic weapons in this or that area but that there was no need for me to assure them there were no US atomic weapons in Haiti. They wondered whether Cuban story was prelude for Cuban request for some kind of international supervision in this entire area. In this connection I brought them up to date on current attitude towards Brazilian denuclearization proposal.

In some ways this was one of more satisfactory discussions I have had with Duvalier since coming here. He was certainly less evasive than usual. I attribute this to various stringent pressures being brought to bear on his government and his desire play role of ben enfant to get back in good graces of US. Obviously we should do what we can to utilize this situation in our interests. Noting however Duvalier's recent move in putting civil militia (now called volunteers) on legal footing (WEEKA No. 47) and recent repressive measures aimed at both foreign and indigenous elements in Roman Catholic church, I must acknowledge that more than one can play this game and that Duvalier probably believes that he can get by with these measures more easily under cover of our enforced collaboration in Cuban crisis than would otherwise be case.

THURSTON

JVC/6

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